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Letter from Laura T. Leupp to Floride Clemson, 1862 July 20

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West House
Schooley's Mountain
July 23rd 92.

My dear Mary

I had been intending to write you some time but it was utterly impossible for me to do so in the City, I had so much to occupy me in getting ready for a short - but we had Mrs. Brown with just a week, and I consider it high time to let you know how we are getting on, the place itself is pleasant but allow yourself to be imposed upon by the name "Schooley's Mountain" it cannot be called a mountain unless high rolling land about six miles wide at the top is a mountain, still the scenery is quite pretty the air very healthy and rattled insects are said to abound, what more can be said? The Hotel is large, and full of people the eating not particularly good, the rooms at least ours quite small, Of course mind looks upon the inevitable quadrangle so that I have the advantage of smelling every bad smell I have

During the cleaning of boots, Bannister tells
88, and overharing all the jokes. And I agree
- that of my colored brethren, there is a great
superabundance of very young ladies and
gentlemen but further than making
up their quack-dills for them occasionally
and talking to them a little in the evening
I have nothing to do with them, these are
some very nice people friends of ours
live with them. I chiefly console, We
spend the day in visiting, reading, eat-
-ing, and napping, to sum up, I
shall be extremely glad when the day
of our departure arrives, I am so much
obliged to your mother for her photograph
I have it with me now, it is not half
so sweet, and goodlooking as she is never-
theless I am delighted to have it, thank
you for me. Papa coming up but I
spent a week at Pamapo with the Ter-
sons I think I told you I was going
I had a delightful time, though the
climate was very warm, and we had
to keep pretty quiet, still we drove in
the evening, and took walks and thereby
gained many mosquito bites. Papa and
I have taken a secret resolution to go
home by the fifteenth of August in de

pendantly of the rest of the family, we had
several visits to pay, and we think this an
admirable opportunity for killing two birds
with one stone, getting away from here
and paying social debts. The weather here
is a frightful rainy one. I said that we
never think of stirring from our rooms
without a shower and downstairs they
keep a fire going steadily very summy
is it not? Pleasant for us who brought
nothing but thin clothes, I feel intensely
abashed in mudsuits, contrary to my usual
custom I came here unprepared with
work, so that everybody's odds are
against me. I shall I must just
helping Bella make a dress, and until
some one else calls for my assistance
I shall occupy myself with chemise
yoked, that being a mysterious employ-
ment, and giving no clue for mile
investigation. I have just returned from
a very bad dinner, my sole object being
to secure sufficient provisions to last
till tea time, you know I am no
great Latin cook when I tell you that
I had difficulty even in securing
this, you may imagine the state of
culinary matters. How can one grow

about under such circumstances. I think
 you are now about as well posted as
 I am myself and as I had nothing more
 to tell you I will close my epistle, my
 address is at the head of this letter will
 be soon, the girls send love, give the
 best of love to your mother and believe
 me ever your most affectionate sister,
 Anne J. Phelps